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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/267,150	03/11/1999	DAVID V JAMES	SONY-50M2389	6648

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EXAMINER

ONUAKU, CHRISTOPHER O

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/267,150

Applicant(s)
James

Examiner
Christopher O. Onuaku

Art Unit
2615



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 12, 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1,2,4-9,11,12,14-22,24,25,27&29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruyama et al (US 6,385,389) in view of Yuen et al (US 5,488,409).

Regarding claim 1, Maruyama et al disclose an information recording medium such as a DVD (Digital Video Disk)-RAM and information recording/playback method for recording/reproducing information on/from an information recording/reproducing medium such as DVD-RAM, comprising the steps of:

a) associating an object with stored data (see Fig.3; video object DA22; col.7, line 66 to col.8, line 9), here video object is shown stored in the disc DVD video;

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b) deriving a unique object identifier for the object and assigning the unique object identifier to the object, wherein the unique object identifier is not based on a physical location of the stored data within the mass storage unit (see col.13, lines 20-27), here VOB and cells are each assigned individual identification number (object identifier),

c) maintaining the object in a hierarchical organization with other objects, wherein the hierarchical organization comprises an object list, the object list containing the unique object identifier and other unique object identifier and other unique object identifiers for the other objects (see Fig.11), here Fig.11 shows the hierarchical structure of the DVD video including the object identifiers of , e.g., video object and cell, and inherently the video, audio and subpicture pack of the video object unit include object identifiers for the video data, audio data and subpicture data;

Maruyama fails to explicitly disclose wherein the unique object identifier is unique across a plurality of mass storage devices and accessing the object using the unique object identifier. Yuen et al teach apparatus and methods for facilitating and automatic monitoring the management, storage and retrieval of programs on a cassette of magnetic tape wherein the apparatus includes programs with program numbers and tapes with tape identification (TID) numbers. In the VISS PLUS TP system, for example, for HR and PR tapes, the TID and program numbers are written in TP data packets at a high repetition rate on line 19 of both fields of the VBI. When HR or PR tape is inserted into the indexing VCR 10, the indexing VCR 10 scans the VBI for a predetermined time and quickly determines from the surrounding TP data packets the TID of the tape and the current program number. When the user presses the Index button, the indexing VCR

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10 retrieves the directory from the RAM 33 and displays it (see col.16, lines 45-67). Here, Yuen teaches accessing programs (objects) stored in plurality of tapes by using the unique tape identification number (TIP) and the program number (here the PID and program number constitute the claimed unique object identifier). This unique object identifier is used to access the program and the tape in which the program is stored. Accessing the object using the object identification number makes the object reproduction process easy and simple. It would have been obvious to modify Maruyama by reproducing the cell of Maruyama using the program number and the tape identification number, as taught by Yuen, since reproducing the object (program) using the unique object identification number makes the object reproduction process easy and simple.

Although in this case, Yuen teaches the processing of tapes as the storage device, it would have been obvious to apply similar identification system to disk means, for example, since disk means has the desirable advantage of having large storage capacity.

It, therefore, would have been obvious to modify Maruyama by applying similar identification system to disk means of Maruyama, for example, since a disk has the desirable advantage of having large storage capacity.

Regarding claim 2, Maruyama discloses wherein step of deriving a unique object identifier for the object and assigning the unique object identifier to the object, wherein the unique object identifier is not based on a physical location of the stored data within the mass storage unit

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comprises the step of using an embedded system of the mass storage unit to derive and assign unique object identifier (see col.13, lines 20-27 and col.18, lines 8-43), here Maruyama discloses how different objects are assigned unique object identifiers.

Regarding claim 4, Maruyama discloses wherein step of deriving a unique object identifier for the object and assigning the unique object identifier to the object, wherein the unique object identifier is not based on a physical location of the stored data within the mass storage unit further comprises the step of including in the unique object identifier an identification number unique to the mass storage unit such that the unique object identifier is unique for a plurality of mass storage units (see col.3, lines 20-27; col.18, lines 8-43; col.19, line 45 to col.20, line 13), here different objects are assigned object identifier showing the storage unit to which it belongs. For example, cell identifier shows C-IN#, video manager identifier shows VMG-ID and video title set identifier shows VTS-ID, wherein the identified objects are stored in different storage portions (units) of the mass storage device.

Regarding claim 5, Maruyama discloses wherein the step of maintaining the object in a hierarchical organization with other objects wherein the hierarchical organization comprises an object list, the object list containing the unique object identifier and other unique object identifiers for the other objects further comprises the step of creating a table of contents containing a list of

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objects associated with data stored on the mass storage unit (see Fig.15; col.18, line 6 to col.19, line 14).

Regarding claim 6, Yuen further teaches wherein the step of maintaining the object in a hierarchical organization with other objects wherein the hierarchical organization comprises an object list, the object list containing the unique object identifier and other unique object identifiers for the other objects further comprises the step of associating a first object to a second object using a unique object identifier for the second object (see Fig.3, col.9, line 48 to col.10, line 25; col.16, lines 26-31; and claim 1 discussions; which shows the programs as the programs are stored in the tapes, and each program having its own program number, e.g., program 1 and program 2. The program number represents the order in which the program was recorded, and each program can be reproduced by accessing the program number and the tape identification number (or disk identification number); col.9, line 48 to col.10, line 25; and claim 1 discussions. The program number in combination with the tape identification number becomes the unique object identifier which associates the first program to the second program, for example. Associating the objects with the unique object identifier provides the desirable advantage of facilitating the reproduction process.

Regarding claim 7, Yuen further teaches wherein the step of accessing the object using the unique object identifier further comprises:

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a) locating the first object using a unique object identifier for the first object (see claim 1 discussions);

b) locating the second object using the unique object identifier for the second object (see claim 1 discussions).

It is pertinent to note that the discussions of claim 1 include accessing any given program (program 1 or program 2, etc) by using that program's unique identifier which comprises that program's program number and the identification number of the storage means in which the program is stored.

Regarding claim 8, Yuen further teaches the method wherein the step of accessing the object using the unique object identifier further comprises the step of locating the object using descriptive data, wherein the object contains the descriptive data for describing the stored data (see col.16, lines 56-67), here the program number and TID of storage means wherein the program is stored read on the claimed descriptive data.

Regarding claim 9, Yuen further teaches the method comprising the steps of accessing the object and executing a command using the object (see col.16, lines 56-67 and also col.60, lines 20-61), here the program is accessed and played.

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Regarding claim 11, Yuen further teaches the method wherein the command specifies that the stored data associated with the object are to be played (see col.60, lines 20-61), here examiner reads the “read command” as “play command”.

Regarding claim 12, Yuen further teaches the method wherein the command is for reading from the stored data associated with the object are to be played (see col.60, lines 20-61).

Regarding claim 14, Maruyama discloses the method wherein the mass storage unit is a magnetic disk device (see Fig.1 and the optical disc 10; col.4, lines 58-67).

Regarding claim 15, the claimed limitations of claim 15 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 1&14 above, except Maruyama further discloses a head positioned adjacent to a surface of the medium such that the data are read to and written from the surface using the head (see optical head; col.6, line 34-40 and col.21, line 62 to col.22, line 3, and wherein the writing and reading of data are both inherent in the optical head), and the microcontroller for controlling movement of the head which is inherent in Maruyama since the optical head of Maruyama is movable.

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Regarding claim 16, Maruyama discloses the step wherein the unique object identifier is derived such that the unique object identifier is unique to the mass storage unit (see col.7, lines 50-56; col.13, lines 20-27; and col.18, lines 8-43).

Regarding claim 17, the claimed limitations of claim 17 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 4 above.

Regarding claim 18, the claimed limitations of claim 18 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 5&15 above.

Regarding claim 19, the claimed limitations of claim 19 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 6&15 above.

Regarding claim 20, the claimed limitations of claim 20 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 7&15 above.

Regarding claim 21, the claimed limitations of claim 21 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 8&15 above.

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Regarding claim 22, the claimed limitations of claim 22 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 9&15 above.

Regarding claim 24, the claimed limitations of claim 24 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 11&15 above.

Regarding claim 25, the claimed limitations of claim 25 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 12&15 above.

Regarding claim 27, the claimed limitations of claim 27 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 15 above, wherein the limitation “a data transfer means” reads on “ahead”.

Regarding claim 29, the claimed limitations of claim 29 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 5&27 above.

Regarding claim 30, the claimed limitations of claim 30 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 6&27 above.

Regarding claim 31, the claimed limitations of claim 31 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 8&27 above.

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Regarding claims 32, the claimed limitations of claim 32 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 9&27 above.

4. Claims 3&28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruyama et al in view of Yuen and further in view of Taira et al (US 6,415,098).

Regarding claim 3, Maruyama and Yuen fail to explicitly disclose wherein step of deriving a unique object identifier for the object and assigning the unique object identifier to the object, wherein the unique object identifier is not based on a physical location of the stored data within the mass storage unit further comprises the step of including in the unique object identifier a date and time corresponding to when the unique object identifier is derived such that the unique object identifier is unique to the mass storage unit. Taira '098 teaches an improvement of an image recording/reproducing apparatus which records/reproduces image data with respect to a recording medium capable of recording a large amount of data comprising pack column which includes control packs, wherein the control pack also includes information of date and time at which a VOB is recorded. Including the date and time at which a VOB is recorded provides the desirable advantage of knowing, for example, the date and time the VOB is recorded. It would have been obvious to further modify Maruyama by adding the date and time information at which the VOB is recorded, as taught by Taira '098, since this provides the desirable advantage of knowing, for example, the date and time the VOB is recorded.

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Regarding claim 28, the claimed limitations of claim 28 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 3,4&27 above.

5. Claims 10,13,23&26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruyama et al in view of Yuen and further in view of Nakatani et al (US 6,370,325).

Regarding claim 10, Maruyama and Yuen fail to explicitly disclose the method wherein the command specifies that the stored data associated with the object are to be recorded. Nakatani et al teach an optical disc recording apparatus, computer-readable recording medium recording a file management program, and an optical disc wherein a record command is issued to record an AV data (see col.18, lines 46-54). Command to record AV data provides the desirable advantage of allowing a user, for example, to request to record desired data. It would have been obvious to further modify Maruyama by realizing Maruyama with the means to issue a command to record a AV data, for example, as taught by Nakatani, since this provides the desirable advantage of allowing a user, for example, to request to record desired data.

Regarding claim 13, Maruyama and Yuen fail to explicitly disclose the method wherein the command is for writing to the stored data associated with the object.

Nakatani et al teach an optical disc recording apparatus, computer-readable recording medium recording a file management program, and an optical disc wherein a write command is issued to write an AV data (see col.18, lines 46-54). Command to write AV data provides the desirable

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advantage of allowing a user, for example, to request to write desired data. It would have been obvious to further modify Maruyama by realizing Maruyama with the means to issue a command to write a AV data, for example, as taught by Nakatani, since this provides the desirable advantage of allowing a user, for example, to request to write desired data.

Regarding claim 23, the claimed limitations of claim 23 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 10&15 above.

Regarding claim 26, the claimed limitations of claim 26 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 13&15 above.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CAR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CAR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however,

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will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from this examiner should be directed to Christopher Onuaku whose telephone number is (703) 308-7555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Monday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew B. Christensen, can be reached on (703) 308-9644.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry)

and (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Application/Control Number: 09/267,150

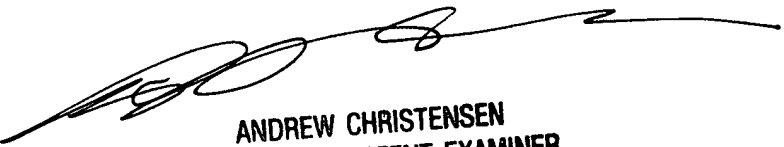
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Customer Service whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

AC
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ANDREW CHRISTENSEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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